IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 10, AMEND claims 1 and 5-9 and ADD new claim 11 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A full text search system, comprising:

a plurality of search processing apparatuses receiving instructions related to locations of search-target character string data and character string search conditions, and outputting search results responsive to the instructions and at the locations of the search-target character string data accordingly;

a search integration unit having search-target character string data divided into a group of character string records and allocated to one or more of the plurality of search processing apparatuses, correspondingly transmitting character string search conditions to each of the search processing apparatuses as search instructions for executing a search using the group of character string records as a series of individual target data, and integrating search results received from each of the search processing apparatuses;~~.~~

an update temporary memory unit temporarily storing new character string records to update the search-target character string data; and

an update record search instruction unit transmitting the new character string records stored in the update temporary memory unit to any one of the search processing apparatuses in advance as a part of the search-target character string data.

2. (ORIGINAL) The full text search system according to claim 1, further comprising:

an update result reflection unit in which old records before being updated corresponding to the new records stored in the update temporary memory unit is deleted from the search-target character string data, and the new records are incorporated into the search-target character string data.

3. (ORIGINAL) The full text search system according to claim 2, further comprising:

a search result receiving time storing unit in which after the search integration unit transmits search instructions to the plurality of search processing apparatuses, the time when search results are received from each search processing apparatus is stored; and

a breakdown search processing apparatus judgement unit in which the search processing apparatus which cannot receive search results within a preset time from the search result receiving time received first which is stored in the search result receiving time storing unit is judged to be a defective apparatus.

4. (ORIGINAL) The full text search system according to claim 3, wherein when the breakdown search processing apparatus judgement unit judges the search processing apparatus to be defective, the search integration unit revokes all the search results transmitted from the plurality of search processing apparatuses, and after incorporating the new records stored in the update temporary memory unit into the search-target character string data by instructing the update result reflection unit, the search integration unit divides the search-target character string data and allocates the divided data to usable search processing apparatuses except the search processing apparatuses which are judged to be defective and the search processing apparatuses which have been instructed to execute search processing by the update record search instruction unit, and instructs the usable search processing apparatuses to execute search.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A full text search program which causes a computer to execute operations to function as a full text search system, said operations comprising:

causing a plurality of search processing apparatuses to receive instruction related to locations of the search-target character string data and character string search conditions are instructed, and to accordingly output search results responsive to the instructions and at the locations of the search-target character string data;

causing a search integration unit having search-target character string data divided into a group of character string records and allocated to one or more of the plurality of search processing apparatuses, to correspondingly transmit character string search conditions to each of the search processing apparatuses as search instructions for executing a search using the group of character string records as a series of individual target data, and to integrate search results received from each of the search processing apparatuses;

causing an update temporary memory unit to temporarily store new character string records to update the search-target character string data; and

causing an update record search instruction unit to transmit the new character string records stored in the update temporary memory unit to any one of the search processing apparatuses in advance as a part of the search-target character string data.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable storage medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute operations related to a full text search, comprising:

causing a plurality of search processing apparatuses to receive instructions related to locations of the search-target character string data and character string search conditions, and to output search results responsive to the instructions and at the locations of the search-target character string data accordingly;

causing a search integration unit having search-target character string data divided into a group of character string records to have the character string records allocated to one or more of the plurality of search processing apparatuses, to correspondingly transmit character string search conditions to each of the search processing apparatuses as search instructions for executing a search using the group of character string records as a series of individual target data, and to integrate search results received from each of the search processing apparatuses;

causing an update temporary memory unit to temporarily store new character string records to update the search-target character string data; and

causing an update record search instruction unit to transmit the new character string records stored in the update temporary memory unit to any one of the search processing apparatuses in advance as a part of the search-target character string data.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A full text search system having a search integration server receiving instructions related to locations of search-target character string data and character string search conditions, comprising:

a plurality of search processing servers outputting search results responsive to the instructions connected via a network, the search-target character string data being divided into a group of character string records and allocated to one or more of the plurality of search processing servers and the character string search conditions being transmitted to each of the search processing servers as search instructions for executing a search using the group of character string records as a series of individual target data, and search results received from

each of the search processing servers being integrated;

an update temporary memory unit temporarily storing new character string records to update the search-target character string data; and

an update record search instruction unit transmitting the new character string records stored in the update temporary memory unit to any one of the search processing apparatuses in advance as a part of the search-target character string data.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A full text search method, comprising:

dividing search-target character string data into a group of character string records;

allocating the divided character string records to one or more of a plurality of search processing apparatuses which are given locations of search-target character string data and character string search conditions and ~~output~~ outputting search results responsive to the given locations and conditions at the locations of the search-target character string data;

transmitting given character string search conditions to each of the search processing apparatuses as search instructions, executing a search using the group of character string records as a series of individual target data, receiving search results from each of the search processing apparatuses, and integrating the search results;

temporarily storing, when updating the search-target character string data, new character string records to update the search-target character string data; and

instructing the stored character string records to any one of the search processing apparatuses determined in advance as a part of the search-target character sting data.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A full text search method, comprising:

receiving a plurality of search requests from terminals requesting to search target data having character strings;

executing the plurality of search requests from the terminals in parallel via a plurality of search processing apparatuses; and

automatically adding new data to the target data based on at least one request from at least one of the terminals while the plurality of search requests are processed, wherein the target data is logically divided into regions to correspond to the plurality of search processing apparatuses, ~~and~~ the regions are allocated to the plurality of search processing apparatuses for executing searches using the logically divided regions as a series of individual target data based on the plurality of search requests and at the locations of the search-target character string data.

10. (CANCELLED)

11. (NEW) A method for full text search using a plurality of search processing apparatuses, comprising:

transmitting character string search conditions to each of the search processing apparatuses as search instructions; and

executing searches via the search processing apparatuses using corresponding search target character string data divided according to a number of the search processing apparatuses, where the searches are executed using said corresponding search target character string data divided as a series of individual target data.